(c) As per the information collected by Labour Bureau, Number of establishments affected by closures during 1998-2003 are given below:

Year	No. of closures establishments
1998	175
1999	159
2000	138
2001	151
2002	213
2003 (Jan.-Sept.)P	65

Unemployed engineers and diploma holders

1049. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of engineers and diploma holders are growing day by day and now searching jobs in various fields;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to issue Government's various departmental small contracts/proposal to the unemployed engineers/diploma holders so that these youth can start their own business and get enough experience; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Number of engineers (graduates & post graduates) and diploma holders, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in the country was of the order of 2.16 lakh and 7.64 lakh as on December, 2001 as compared to 2.10 lakh and 7.33 lakh as on December, 2000.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Ministry of Labour. However Government is implementing various

employment generating and poverty alleviation schemes which include self employment schemes such as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana etc. for the benefit of the unemployed youth.

Benefits to unorganised workers

1050. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give benefits to the workers of the unorganised sector at par with the organised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any additional infrastructure is to be created for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Government propose to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the unorganised sector workers. The Bill amongst other provisions also envisages to provide for certain social security measures including old age pension, insurance cover for accident and health. The proposal is under active consideration of the Government.

Bonded children

1051. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a number of cases of bonded children have been lodged in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any discrimination amongst child bondage and adult bondage. No separate data on child bondage is maintained.

(b) The number of bonded labourers including child bonded labourers identified and released by the State Governments since enactment of the Act, State-wise is given in the Statement.